THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The policy of the Government is to appoint through a fair and objective selection procedure outstanding professional managers to level I and level II posts and posts at any other level as may be decided by the Govt. from time to time. Govt. have also recognised the need to develop a cadre of professional managers within the public sector. Hence, unless markedly better candidates are available from outside, internal candidates employed in the public sector enterprise will be preferred for appointment to Board level posts. If internal candidates are not available, preference will be given to candidates working in other public sector enterprises either in the same area of business or in other areas. Mobility of managerial personnel among public sector enterprises, within the same sector or group, failing which mobility within the public sector, as a whole, will be encouraged subject to certain limitations. In special cases, recruitment may be made from the organised services under the Central Govt. Such cases would be where, because of special circumstances, it is necessary to place a member of an organised service in a public sector enterprise or where because of the nature of the enterprise, or its poor health, it would be difficult to attract good professional managers on a tenure basis.

Payments made by Bofors in Howitzer gun deal

1181. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 21st May, 1988 to the effect that after conclusion of the Indian deal for Howitzer guns, Bofors had to pay SEK 50 million to an obscure foundation there, because the Indian order was made possible by Swedish Government's 'export credit guarantees' and thus the SEK 50 million donation was made possible by the Indian order;

(b) whether while negotiating for the 'export credit guarantees' Swedish Government had told India that it would ask Bofors, for such a donation; if so, what was India's response; and

(c) whether India has protested and demanded the money back?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The Government has seen the Press report captioned "Bofors paid 10 Cr to SDP" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 21st May, 1988. It contains no information about Bofors paying SEK 50 million to a Swedish foundation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Central Administrative Tribunal

1182. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 14 benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal were set up on November 1, 1985 to speed up disposal of Central Government employees' service disputes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the speed has slowed down and already more than 21000 cases have accumulated before the Tribunal benches, delaying justice;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to reduce the number of pending cases and with what results; and

(d) whether some advice is being given to States to set up similar Tribunals for service disputes of State Government employees; if so, in what form and if not, what are reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There are 14 Benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal presently functioning from different parts of the Country. 5 Benches were initially set up on 1.11.85, 3 more benches were set up on 3.3.86 and 6 more benches on 30.6.86.

(b) The number of cases pending before various Benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal as on 30.6.88 is 23,639. It may not be possible to infer that the speed of disposal has slowed down because number of cases freshly instituted and transferred from other Courts has also been varying ever since the Central Administrative Tribunal was set up.

(c) In order to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal, the Government have already decided to appoint more Vice-Chairman and Members. It has also been decided to open additional benches at Lucknow and Jaipur.

(d) Section 4(2) of the Administrative tribunals Act, 1985, provides for setting up of Administrative Tribunals for the States on receipt of specific request from the respective State Government. States Administrative Tribunals have already been set up in Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh as per above provisions.

Refusal by Pak to return Indian National

1183. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 6th July, 1988 regarding refusal of the Pak Government to return the two boys, who accidentally strayed into Pakistan while picking berries in Kanackak border area, even though they have completed the term of their imprisonment; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have made a request to the Government of Pakistan for the early repatriation of the two boys.

Indians killed in Northern Somali

1184. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indian nationals have been killed in Hargeisa, Northern Somalia in the Somali National Movement agitation recently;

(b) if so, what are the total number of Indians killed there during the last three months; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Indian Embassy to protect the lives of Indians there?